



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Temple, TX – (January 16, 2015) Temple Police Chief Gary Smith has announced his intention to retire from the Temple Police Department, effective June 30, 2015, completing 37 years of employment with the department. The City of Temple will conduct a national search to replace Chief Smith.

“We owe a tremendous debt to Gary Smith for nearly four decades of service to our community,” said City Manager Jonathan Graham. “I have enjoyed working with Chief Smith over 26 of those years and value our relationship. He is respected throughout our organization and by other law enforcement agencies across the state. I have the highest respect for his integrity and personal values. I appreciate Gary’s

leadership of the police department during a difficult period when we rebuilt the Police headquarters building, which involved temporarily relocating the department to the old police building for the better part of a year. His positive attitude and organizational skills kept morale running high in the department. I will miss him as a friend and an important member of our team. I wish Gary and his family the very best for the future. He’s earned it.”

Chief Smith was born and raised in Temple and attended Temple public schools. He graduated from Temple High School in 1978, and in June of that year was hired by the Temple Police Department. Chief started as a part-time employee working in the photo lab and jail facility until February, 1979, when he was hired full-time as a dispatcher for the department, and in November, 1980, Chief Smith was hired as a full time police officer. In September, 1986, Smith was promoted to Sergeant and served in both the Patrol and Investigations Divisions. In 1989, Smith was assigned to create a Special Weapons and Tactics unit for the Department, and in February, 1991, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, serving in the Patrol Division and the Narcotics Unit.

In January 1995, Smith was appointed to serve as the Interim Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief Thomas Vannoy. Smith served in that capacity until the appointment of Chief Ralph Evangelous in July of that year. He served as a Commander

(Deputy Chief) for nine years under Chief Evangelous prior to being appointed as the Chief of Police in August 2004.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Smith received many awards. He was named the "Rookie of the Year" in 1981, and named "Officer of the Year" twice, 1986 and 1988. He was also recognized by the Temple City Council on three separate occasions. These included his handling of a hostage incident in 1991, recognition for his service as Interim Police Chief in 1995 and for exemplary service in 2001.

Chief Smith graduated from Temple High School as a National Honor Society Graduate, he holds two Associate Degrees from Temple College, and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Texas A&M University – Central Texas. Chief Smith is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute School of Police Supervision. He is a past president of the Central Texas Area Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association, a member of the Texas Police Chiefs Association Executive Board, and serves as the state-wide liaison to Special Olympics for the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

"It has been an honor to serve my community and the men and women of the Temple Police Department," said Chief Smith. "Through the years I have had the tremendous privilege to have worked and associated with some of the finest people I will ever know, and saying goodbye to them will be extremely difficult. However, I have reached a time in my life when I need to spend more time with my family and return the support they have given me throughout my career. I am thankful for all of the blessings God has bestowed upon me, and I pray that He will lead me to whatever new paths He chooses for my life."

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